

STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: January 8, 2007

To: Chief GED Examiners, Alternate Examiners, Adult Literacy Coordinators,

Other Interested Parties

FROM: Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

SUBJECT: Iowa GED Statistical Report for Calendar Year 2006

(January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006)

INTRODUCTION

The following information summarizes the major statistical trends relative to Iowa's GED testing program for Calendar Year 2006.

STATISTICAL TRENDS

The following data summarizes some of the significant trends based on total testing volume (N=5,769):

- 10-12 percent of the total number of secondary school credentials issued were GED diplomas.
- 98.9 percent passed by Iowa state standards. This is the nation's highest pass rate.
- The highest grade completed for Iowa's GED candidates is 11.0 compared to a national average of 11.0.
- The average age of Iowa's GED candidates is 25.0 compared to the national average of 24.9.
- 56.0 percent were male and 44.0 percent were female.
- 76 percent were majority and 24 percent were minority. The 24 percent minority figure compares to an overall 6 percent minority population figure for Iowa's adult population according to 2000 census figures.
- The number of Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas issued during Calendar Year 2006 was 3,592.
- The three (3) major reasons for testing were: 1) Employment Related (27 percent), 2) Higher Education/Training (25 percent), and 3) Personal Satisfaction (23 percent).
- 80 percent of the candidates were between the ages of 16-29 (35.0 percent were between the ages of 16-19 and 45.0 percent were between the ages of 20-29).
- 85 percent of the candidates were between the ages of 18-59.
- 19 percent of the GED test volume was conducted in correctional facilities.
- Iowa's mean test scores range from 15-22 standard score points above the national subtest pass rate percentage range.
- Iowa's subtest pass rate percentages range 6-15 percentage points above the national subtest pass rate percentages.

SUMMARY

The GED testing program in Iowa has traditionally sustained a 93-98 percent GED candidates' pass rate. Iowa has always ranked in the top five states for GED candidates' pass rate. This high pass rate is an excellent testimony to the effectiveness of Iowa's adult literacy instructional program and GED testing program. Iowa's high pass rate is due, to a large extent, to the fact that 96 percent of Iowa's GED candidates are direct referrals from the adult literacy instructional program. Iowa has successfully met the state benchmark pass range (94-96 percent) for Calendar Years 1998-2006.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

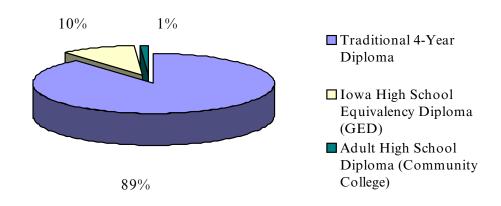
Sincerely,

John Hartwig Iowa State GED Administrator

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Graphic Presentation of Iowa's GED Testing Program

A Comparison of the Number and Percentage of the Traditional and Non-Traditional Secondary School Credentials Issued for Program Year 2006

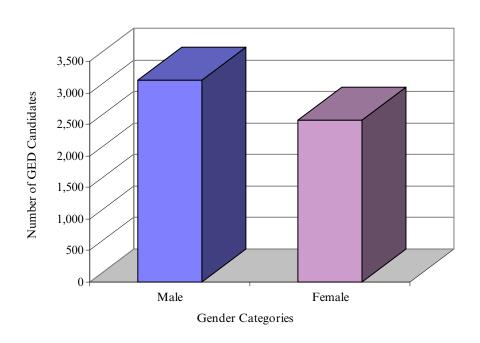


| Type of Credential | N | Percent | |
|--|--------|---------|--|
| Traditional 4-Year Diploma | 33,547 | 89 | |
| Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma (GED) | 3,893 | 10 | |
| Adult High School Diploma (Community Colleges) | 242 | 1 | |
| Total | 37,682 | 100 | |

The GED diploma rate will range between 10-12 percent of the total percentage of secondary school credentials issued for any given program year.

Source: The Annual Condition of Education Report: 2006, Table 131, Iowa Department of Education. Iowa's Community College Basic Literacy Skills Credential Report: Program Year 2006, Table 1, Iowa Department of Education.

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Gender Category for Calendar Year 2006

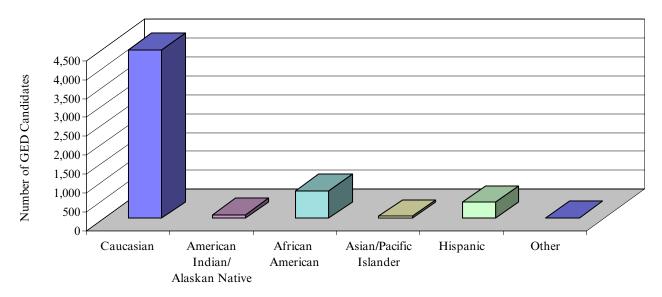


| Gender Category | N | Percent |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| Male | 3,203 | 56 |
| Female | 2,566 | 44 |
| | 5,769 | 100 |

lowa gender categories included 56 percent male and 44 percent female compared to the national gender categories of 55 percent male and 45 percent female.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 3, American Council on Education.

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Race/Ethnic Category for Calendar Year 2006



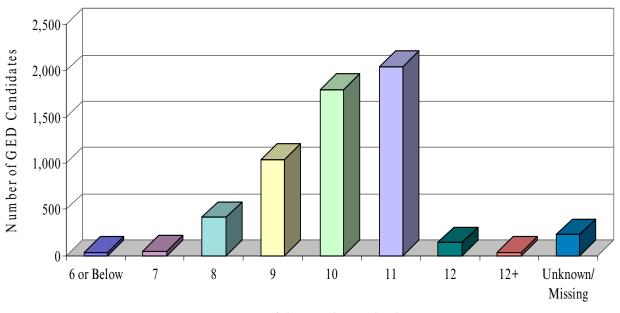
Racial/Ethnic Categories

| Racial Ethnic Category | N | Percent | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|--|
| Caucasian | 4,459 | 76 | |
| American Indian/Alaskan Native | 94 | 2 | |
| African American | 736 | 13 | |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 57 | 1 | |
| Hispanic | 413 | 7 | |
| Other | 10 | 1 | |
| | 5,769 | 100 | |

76 percent were majority and 24 percent were minority. The 24 percent minority figure for GED candidates compares to an overall 6 percent minority population figure for lowa's adult population according to 2000 census figures.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Highest Grade Completed for Calendar Year 2006



| | Hig | hest | Grad | e C | omp | leted |
|--|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-------|
|--|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-------|

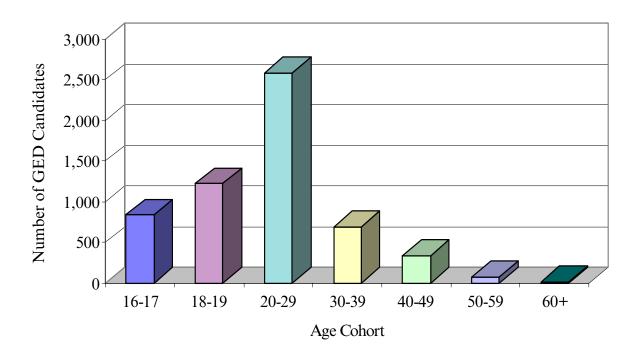
| Highest Grade Level Completed | N | Percent | |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|--|
| 6 or Below | 31 | 1 | |
| 7 | 46 | 1 | |
| 8 | 411 | 7 | |
| 9 | 1,041 | 18 | |
| 10 | 1,798 | 31 | |
| 11 | 2,041 | 35 | |
| 12 | 140 | 2 | |
| 12+ | 33 | 1 | |
| Unknown/Missing | 228 | 4_ | |
| Total | 5,769 | 100 | |

Highest grade completed is 11.0 compared to the national mean of 11.0.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 5, American Council of Education.

Graph 5

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Age Cohorts for Calendar Year 2006

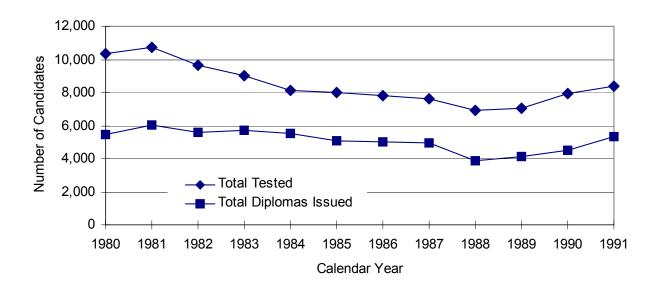


| Age Cohort | N | Percent | |
|---------------|-------|---------|--|
| 16-17 | 838 | 14 | |
| 18-19 | 1,222 | 21 | |
| 20-29 | 2,579 | 45 | |
| 30-39 | 690 | 12 | |
| 40-49 | 338 | 6 | |
| 50-59 | 79 | 1 | |
| 60+ | 23 | 1 | |
| | 5,769 | 100 | |

Mean age is 25.0 compared to the national mean age of 24.9. 85 percent were between ages 18-59.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 2, American Council of Education.

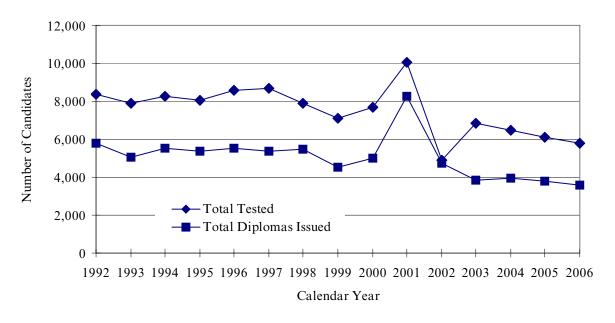
A Comparison of Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested, and Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1980-1991



| Calendar Year | Total Tested | Total Diplomas Issued |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1980 | 10,342 | 5,452 |
| 1981 | 10,753 | 6,024 |
| 1982 | 9,635 | 5,602 |
| 1983 | 9,035 | 5,710 |
| 1984 | 8,147 | 5,531 |
| 1985 | 8,003 | 5,106 |
| 1986 | 7,832 | 5,036 |
| 1987 | 7,650 | 4,957 |
| 1988 | 6,902 | 3,858 |
| 1989 | 7,027 | 4,126 |
| 1990 | 7,909 | 4,497 |
| 1991 | 8,373 | 5,305 |

Source: 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 1980-1991 GED Diploma Recipient Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

A Comparison of Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested, and Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1992-2006

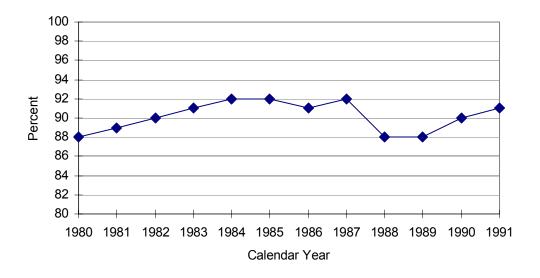


| Calendar Year | Total Tested | Total Diplomas Issued |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1992 | 8,348 | 5,764 |
| 1993 | 7,917 | 5,063 |
| 1994 | 8,277 | 5,525 |
| 1995 | 8,044 | 5,372 |
| 1996 | 8,566 | 5,525 |
| 1997 | 8,666 | 5,377 |
| 1998 | 7,871 | 5,448 |
| 1999 | 7,120 | 4,544 |
| 2000 | 7,666 | 4,983 |
| 2001 | 10,061 | 8,259 |
| 2002 | *4,915 | 4,763 |
| 2003 | 6,845 | 3,845 |
| 2004 | 6,458 | 3,958 |
| 2005 | 6,109 | 3,784 |
| 2006 | 5,769 | 3,592 |

^{*}The test volume decreased due to the change to the GED 2002 tests.

Source: 1992-2006 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 1992-2006 GED Diploma Recipient Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

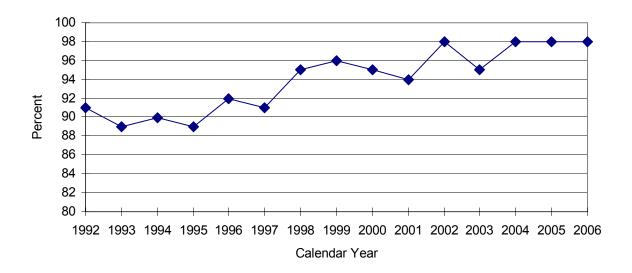
Graph 8 Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent 1980-1991



| Calendar Year | Pass Rate (Percent) |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1980 | 88 |
| 1981 | 89 |
| 1982 | 90 |
| 1983 | 91 |
| 1984 | 92 |
| 1985 | 92 |
| 1986 | 91 |
| 1987 | 92 |
| 1988 | 88 |
| 1989 | 88 |
| 1990 | 90 |
| 1991 | 91 |

Source: 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

Graph 9 Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent 1992-2006

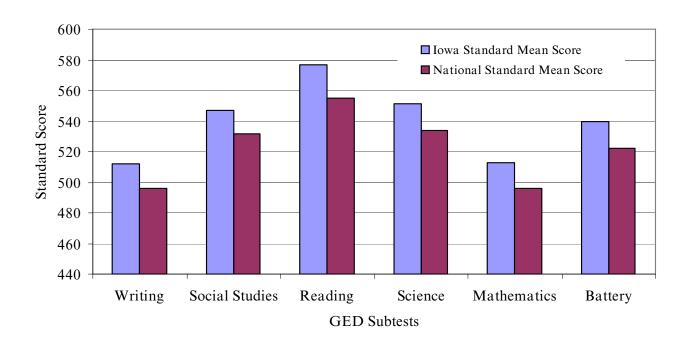


| Calendar Year | Pass Rate (Percent) |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1992 | 91 |
| 1993 | 89 |
| 1994 | 90 |
| 1995 | 89 |
| 1996 | 92 |
| 1997 | 91 |
| 1998 | 95 |
| 1999 | 96 |
| 2000 | 85 |
| 2001 | 84 |
| 2002 | 98 |
| 2003 | 95 |
| 2004 | 98 |
| 2005 | 98 |
| 2006 | 99 |

The 99.0 percent pass rate meets the accountability range of 92-95 percent pass rate for lowa's GED testing program. The national average pass rate is 72.1 percent.

Source: 1992-2006 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Exhibit 5, American Council of Education.

Iowa's GED Test Score Mean Compared to National Mean for Subtests and Overall Test Battery for GED Passers

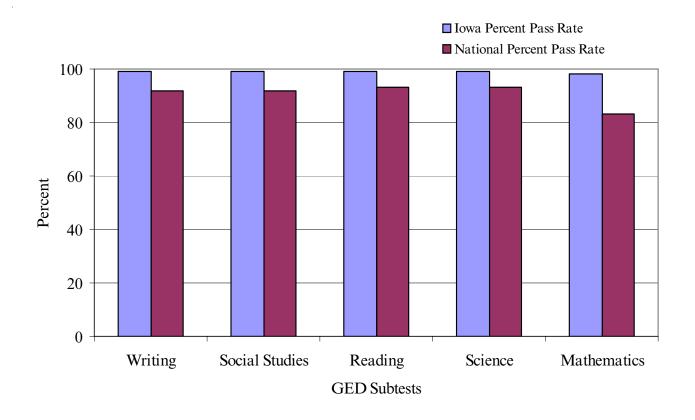


| GED Subtest | lowa Standard Score Mean | National Standard Score Mean | Difference |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Writing | 512 | 496 | 16 |
| Social Studies | 547 | 532 | 15 |
| Reading | 577 | 555 | 22 |
| Science | 551 | 534 | 17 |
| Mathematics | 513 | 496 | 17 |
| Battery | 540 | 522 | 18 |

lowa's mean test scores range from 15-22 standard score points above the national mean test scores.

Source: 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Tables 15A and 15B, American Council of Education.

Iowa's Pass Rates Compared to National Pass Rates for GED Subtests for All GED Candidates

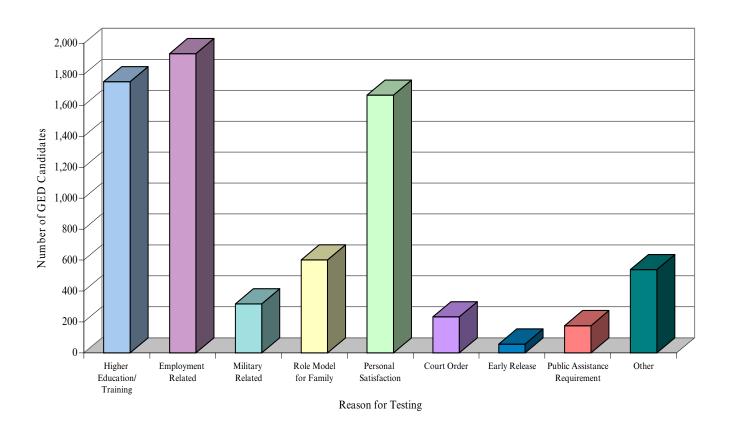


| GED Subtest | Iowa Percent Pass Rate | National Percent Pass Rate | Difference |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Writing | 99% | 92% | 7 |
| Social Studies | 99 | 92 | 7 |
| Reading | 99 | 93 | 6 |
| Science | 99 | 93 | 6 |
| Mathematics | 98 | 83 | 15 |

lowa's subtest pass rate percentages range 6-15 percentage points above the national subtest pass rate percentage range. The largest pass rate discrepancy is observed in the mathematics subtest (15 percentage points difference).

Source: 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Tables 7A and 7B, American Council of Education.

Graph 12 Reasons for Testing



| Reason | N | Percent |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Higher Education/Training | 1,753 | 25 |
| Employment Related | 1,934 | 27 |
| Military Related | 317 | 4 |
| Role Model for Family | 601 | 8 |
| Personal Satisfaction | 1,666 | 23 |
| Court Order | 233 | 3 |
| Early Release | 57 | 1 |
| Public Assistance Requirement | 176 | 2 |
| Other | 538 | 7 |
| | *7,275 | 100 |

The three (3) major reasons for testing were: 1) Employment Related (27 percent), 2) Higher Education/ Training (25 percent), and 3) Personal Satisfaction (23 percent).

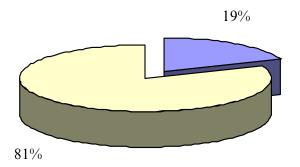
Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.

^{*}Represents duplicated head count.

Total GED Test Volume Percentage Compared to Correctional Facilities GED Test Volume

Correctional Facilities

Other



| Location | N | Percent |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Correctional Facilities Other | 1,103 4,666 | 19 81 |
| | 5,769 | 100 |

19 percent of the GED testing volume was conducted in correctional facilities.

Source: 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.